

Message Text

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: APRIL 24 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. DANIEL SOUTHERLAND OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR SAID
"MUCH PAINSTAKING BARGAINING WITH RUSSIANS APPARENTLY LIES
AHEAD FOR U.S. BEFORE NEW U.S.-SOVIET STRATEGIC ARMS
AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED. THIS IS ONLY LOGICAL CONCLUSION
WHICH COULD BE DRAWN FROM CAREFULLY WORDED BRIEFINGS
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WHICH NEWSMEN ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE WERE
GIVEN DURING MR. VANCE'S VISIT TO MOSCOW APRIL 19-23."
SOUTHERLAND SAID VANCE "APPARENTLY WOULD PREFER THAT HIS
LATEST TRIP TO MOSCOW, IN WHICH HE SEEMED TO HAVE MADE ONLY
MINIMAL PROGRESS ON NUMBER OF ISSUES, BE VIEWED NEITHER AS
SUCCESS NOR FAILURE -- BUT AS PART OF LONG, DIFFICULT
PROCESS AIMED AT STABILIZING RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO SUPER-

POWERS."

2. MURREY MARDER OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT THREE DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN KREMLIN PRODUCED ONLY LIMITED ADVANCES AND FAILED TO BRIDGE GAP BETWEEN U.S. AND USSR ON NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL PACT. MARDER OBSERVED THAT "IT

REQUIRED SEVEN HOURS OF DIPLOMATIC HAGGLING AFTERWARD TO PRODUCE JOINT STATEMENT WHICH PUT BEST LIGHT ON THURSDAY-TO-SATURDAY DISCUSSIONS. THIS STATEMENT, WHICH EVEN AVOIDED WORD 'PROGRESS,' WAS REMARKABLY FRANK IN DIPLOMATIC TERMS ABOUT LIMITED GAINS MADE. IT DESCRIBED NUCLEAR BARGAINING HERE AS 'USEFUL AND THOROUGH DISCUSSIONS' WHICH RESULTED IN 'NARROWING OF PARTIES' POSITIONS ON SOME OF REMAINING UNRESOLVED ISSUES.' NO TARGET DATE WAS SET FOR COMPLETING NUCLEAR ACCORD...."

3. KENNETH BACON OF WALL STREET JOURNAL SAID RESTRAINED COMMENTS BY VANCE "TELL AS MUCH ABOUT CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S OUTLOOK FOR U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS AS THEY DO ABOUT LIMITED ACHIEVEMENTS OF MOSCOW SESSIONS. ADMINISTRATION REALIZES THAT PROGRESS WON'T BE DRAMATIC AND WILL COME ONLY THROUGH PATIENT, STEADY AND QUIET EFFORT. THIS CONTRASTS WITH ADMINISTRATION'S EARLIER TACTICS.... WHILE IN MOSCOW 13 MONTHS AGO, MR. VANCE GAVE DAILY TELEVISED BRIEFINGS THAT IRRITATED SOVIETS, WHO PREFER QUIET DIPLO-
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MACY. DURING THIS TRIP, BY CONTRAST, MR. VANCE WAS NEARLY INACCESSIBLE TO PRESS AND VERY CAUTIOUS IN HIS COMMENTS. NEW APPROACH IS MELLOWER -- LESS FLASHY, LESS AMBITIOUS AND LESS EXPECTANT -- AND CLEARLY MORE TO LIKING OF CONSERVATIVE SOVIET LEADERSHIP."

4. DAVID K. WILLIS OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR REPORTED THAT DESPITE MORE THAN 15 HOURS OF INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS, NOT MUCH WAS ACTUALLY SETTLED IN MOSCOW -- "NOT ENOUGH, WESTERN SOURCES BELIEVE, TO OFFSET CONTINUING CONFRONTATIONS ON HORN OF AFRICA AND IN MIDDLE EAST. IT REMAINS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT NO NEW STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT CAN BE SIGNED THIS YEAR."

5. DAVID K. SHIPLER OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID RUSSIANS CANNOT ESCAPE "UNEASY FEELING" THAT WHEN THEY NEGOTIATE WITH VANCE, WARNKE, SHULMAN AND GELB, THEY ARE DEALING WITH ADMINISTRATION FACTION MOST COMMITTED TO ARMS CONTROL, WHILE BACK IN WASHINGTON "ANTI-SOVIET" FORCES, WHICH THEY SEE AS EXEMPLIFIED BY BRZEZINSKI, ARE PUSHING IN OTHER DIRECTION.

6. BERNARD GWERTZMAN OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID "WITH NEGOTIATIONS FOR STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT APPARENTLY MOVING FORWARD 'BRICK BY BRICK,' IN MR. VANCE'S WORDS TODAY, MR. VANCE APPARENTLY FEELS THAT IF ANYONE PREMATURELY DIVULGES WHAT 'BRICKS' ARE MADE OF, NEGOTIATIONS WILL CRUMBLE. SOME REPORTERS BELIEVE MR. VANCE WAS NAIVE, THAT IN WEEK OR SO INFORMATION WILL BEGIN TO LEAK OUT IN WASHINGTON DESPITE HIS STRICTURES."

GWERTZMAN SAID "ONE OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES" THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE IN CARTER ADMINISTRATION OVER PAST YEAR IS "RECOGNITION THAT SECRECY IN DIPLOMACY MAY BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN FULLY INFORMED PUBLIC."

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7. NATO COMMANDER ALEXANDER HAIG, APPEARING ON NBC'S "MEET PRESS," SAID SOVIET UNION, WHICH HAS LONG OUTSTRIPPED NATO IN CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE, HAS "CLOSED GAP" IN STRATEGIC AREA AS WELL. BALTIMORE SUN SAID HAIG, ASKED WHETHER SOVIET NUCLEAR FORCES WERE NOW EQUAL OR SUPERIOR TO THOSE OF NATO, RESPONDED, "I THINK BEST RESPONSE WOULD BE THAT OUR DETERRENT IS STILL VIABLE, BUT THAT IF THESE TRENDS ARE NOT REVERSED THAT, IN VERY NEAR FUTURE, WE WOULD BE WITHOUT THAT DETERRENT."

8. SENATOR HENRY JACKSON, APPEARING ON CBS NETWORK'S "FACE NATION," ACCUSED CARTER ADMINISTRATION OF INEPTITUDE IN ITS DEALING WITH SOVIET UNION, ESPECIALLY IN NEGOTIATING SALT TREATY. BALTIMORE SUN REPORTED THAT JACKSON SAID ADMINISTRATION HAD RETREATED FROM ORIGINAL PROPOSALS ADVANCED BY PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION. "RUSSIANS GET MORE IN WAY OF STRATEGIC ARMS THAN WE GET," JACKSON DECLARED.

9. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID PENTAGON, "APPARENTLY AT URGING OF WHITE HOUSE," IS PROPOSING DEVELOPMENT OF NEW STRATEGIC MISSILE THAT WOULD BE DEPLOYED ABOARD SUBMARINES AS WELL AS FROM LAND-BASED MOBILE LAUNCHERS. MISSILE, KNOWN AS TRIDENT 2, IS NOW IN EARLY PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT FOR USE ON NEW CLASS OF LARGE, NUCLEAR POWERED TRIDENT SUBMARINES. HOWEVER, BURT REPORTED, SPECIALISTS ARE TRYING TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT COULD ALSO BE DEPLOYED AS MOBILE MISSILE ON LAND.

10. HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR., FORMER ACDA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NOW VICE PRESIDENT OF ARMS CONTROL ASSOCIATION, SUGGESTED THAT WALL STREET JOURNAL RECONSIDER ITS "KNEEJERK REACTION" TO PROPOSAL TO CUT OFF PRODUCTION OF FISSIONABLE
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MATERIAL FOR WEAPONS "AND ITS ATTACK ON PAUL WARNKE FOR
HAVING RESURRECTED IT FOR GOVERNMENT STUDY." SCOVILLE
SAID CUT-OFF "JUST MIGHT HELP PREVENT US BEING INVOLVED IN
A NUCLEAR CONFLICT IN REMOTE CORNER OF WORLD." VANCE

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